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Student Series
Read the first articles of Hal High Monthly, written by HHSS students, on page 3.

Rare duck in Minden
Learn about a lone Canvasback Duck in the Highlands on page 4.

Worry Busters
See Point in Time's new program for youth on page 5.

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School skier Carter Sisco speeds from the start of the exhibition sprints event at the OFSAA Nordic skiing championships held in Lakefield on Thursday, Feb. 22. Read more on page 2. /Photo by Karen Gervais Special to *County Life*

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Hawks Soar High at OFSAA Nordic Championships

The Red Hawk Nordic Ski team found huge success at the OFSAA Nordic Championships held at Lakefield College School February 22 and 23. The team nearly doubled in numbers this year, fielding 15 athletes up from eight last year.

Skiers were forced to contend with rapidly changing snow conditions and early starts each day, as race times were bumped up to 8:00 am to avoid the warmest parts of the afternoon. Despite less than ideal ski conditions, Red Hawk athletes came home with fists full of ribbons, suntans and memories to last a lifetime.

In Thursday's interval distance races, Violet Humphries met her goal of a podium finish at OFSAA, skiing the 5km course under slick conditions to a bronze medal finish in the High School category. At the OFSAA level, skiers can compete in either the High School or Open Categories, with High School skiers competing and training exclusively with their school team and Open skiers training with a club and competing on the Ontario Cup circuit.

Teammate Olivia Gruppe followed up Humphries with a personal best ski and 15th place finish. Ella Gervais was 24th; Sadie Kelly 34th and Grace Allder 67th in a field of 114 High School trained skiers. This earned the Junior Girls team a fifth place finish overall, losing out to Sudbury's Lo Ellen Park by merely a single point. The team score is determined by the lowest total of the top four overall finishers from a school, and may be any combination of High School and Open (club) skiers.

OFSAA rules stipulate that skiers may participate in club programs up until the start of their first year of high school, and then must choose a pathway or wait at least one year before returning to the High School category. A lot of our skiers' success can be attributed to the strong foundations built in our local Jackrabbit program organized by volunteers and the Haliburton Highlands Nordic Trails Association. Many of our athletes continue to act as junior instructors in this program and spend their Saturday afternoons teaching the next generation of Nordic skiers.

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School skier Carter Sisco speeds from the start of the exhibition sprints event at the OFSAA Nordic skiing championships held in Lakefield on Thursday, Feb. 22. /Photo by Karen Gervais

In the highly competitive Junior Boys category, the Backus twins made their OFSAA Nordic debut, returning to the sport after several years. Graham Backus finished 14th, closely followed by brother Evan in 16th. Ninth-grade skier Winston Ramsdale finished 33rd; Brechin Johnston 47th; Owen Megrah-Poppe 61st and Carter McKnight-Sisco 80th. There were 122 skiers in the Junior Boys category. Johnston and Megrah-Poppe just donned cross-country skis for the first time ever this year and continue to make excellent progress in the sport. As a team, the Red Hawk Junior Boys finished ninth in the interval races, just one place short of taking home an OFSAA ribbon.

On the Senior Girls 7km course, Olivia Humphries skied to a strong 10th place finish; Erika Hoare was 14th; Hannah Sharp 44th and Teagan Hamilton 50th. Sharp and Hamilton are only in their second year of Nordic skiing, being new to the sport last year. This Senior Girls earned a sixth-place team finish and a burgundy OFSAA ribbon to bring home.

Friday's Sprint Relays held a lot of drama and intensity. The Junior Girls team of Olivia Gruppe, Sadie Kelly, Ella Gervais and Violet Humphries sought to avenge their single-point loss to Lo Ellen Park and sailed past them to a fourth-place Sprint Relay finish. The relay course featured a very steep and slanted uphill with a 90-degree turn at the top the announcer had dubbed "Heartbreak Hill," and our skiers eclipsed many competitors on this incline due to their training at Glebe Park.

The Junior Boys team of Evan and Graham Backus, Winston Ramsdale and Brechin Johnston, who fought hard to make it into the top-eight final in the tough Junior Boys category with 21 teams, excelled with their strength and grit in the slushy snow on the 900m loop to ski to a fifth-place finish after being seeded in ninth.

The Senior Girls team of Hannah Sharp, Teagan Hamilton, Erika Hoare and Olivia Humphries dug in with a photo finish at the line as Olivia Humphries battled to hang on to the lead created by teammate Erika Hoare who made several passes on the third leg of the relay. Humphries was able to hold off the Collingwood anchor and beat her to the line by a fraction of a second to secure fourth-place in a commendable team effort.

The Haliburton Highlands Nordic team stood strong against big skiing schools with many club skiers such as Huntsville, Collingwood, Glebe and Nepean in Ottawa and Sudbury's Lo Ellen Park and one was of few schools to field three teams in the Sprint Relay finals. Red Hawk coaches Karen Gervais, Mike Rieger, Erin Smith and community coaches Kevin Hoare and Joleen Thomas are extremely proud of the accomplishments of this team. Their success can also largely be attributed to their support of each other and the excellent work ethic, teamwork and dedication they have all shown in practice throughout the season.

A big thanks to Kevin Hoare and Joleen Thomas for their waxing knowledge and help readying skis for competition under widely variable snow conditions; and to Hoare for being the bus driver for the team to get them to competitions. Thanks to all the members of our community that have supported us through volunteering at our meet and the words of encouragement out on the trails and the groomers for always having the trails prepped for us to practice.

It truly does take a village and we are happy to see Haliburton back on the Nordic Skiing map. As OFSAA convenor Todd Harris said: "Haliburton is not only back, but back with a bang!"

Submitted by Karen Gervais

County Life

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Hal High Monthly

Hal High Monthly is written by the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School leadership class featuring monthy school news.

This past month has been busy at HHSS! With finishing exams and starting a new semester, students have adjusted to their new schedules. Teachers and students are feeling refreshed and reset, especially Math teacher Mrs. Klose who said, "This semester I feel fantastic. More and more students are getting involved with their school work and extracurricular activities. The involvement results in an amazing energy and greater gains in mental, physical and emotional wellbeing."

The leadership class organised its first theme week of the semester in celebration of Valentine's Day. "Show Your Love Week" allowed students to show their love for their favourite person, the holiday itself, their favourite sports team, and their love for comfort.

For "Show Your Love For Your Favourite Person" Day, some people dressed up as their favourite artist, athlete, or celebrity, while others dressed up as their friends and family.

History and Social Science teacher Mrs. Andress dressed up as one of her daughters as she wore one of their hoodies on Valentine's day. When it came around to show your love for sports, many people rocked hockey jerseys! Unfortunately Show Your Love For Comfort Day was a snow day, but this meant students were able to remain comfy and warm at home! During the theme week, candy grams were sold and the money raised will help support this years' prom.

Hal High also celebrated Black History Month with morning announcements talking about historical and present day figures in North America. As part of black history month there was an ongoing art contest for students, as well as a trivia contest based on informative posters about influential Black figures posted around the school.

These past two months have also been very successful in our winter sports teams! The senior basketball team had some great games and achievements in their regular season, but fell short in their playoff game. Although it wasn't the outcome they wanted, Coach Longo said, "next year we will come back bigger and better".

On the other hand, the Junior Girls volleyball team had an amazing season throughout, winning all of their Kawartha Championship games, securing their spot for the COSSA championship, which they also went on to win!

The Nordic ski team also had a very successful season. The whole team qualified for OFSAA on Feb. 14 at Arrowhead Provincial Park with multiple podium finishes. The team competed at the OFSAA championships at Lakefield College School on Feb. 22 and 23. Everyone placed exceptionally well despite warm slushy conditions, especially Violet Humphires who placed third in the junior girls division. With the majority of the team just learning how to ski in the last two seasons, the coaches want everyone that is considering joining the team to know that is not a "hard" sport, it is a sport that requires growth and "levelling up" through practice and teachable moments.

By Teagan Hamilton and Hannah Sharp
Grade 11

Le mois de février était un mois très occupé au HHSS! Les étudiants ont transitionné des semestres et ils se sont installés dans leurs nouvelles classes. Il y avait aussi le stress avec les sélections des cours pour l'année prochaine et pour décider des écoles postsecondaires ou du travail qu'ils veulent faire.

La classe de leadership de Mme Carr avait organisé une semaine de thème pour la Saint-Valentin pour répandre l'amour autour de l'école pendant les jours de stress. Il y avait des jours de thème pendant la semaine comme: porter des vêtements rouges, porter les roses et blancs, s'habiller comme ton artiste préféré, montrer ton équipe sportive préférée et s'habiller confortablement. Avec ces jours de thème, il y avait aussi les artisans et les filmes pendant les pauses.

Pour le Mois de l'Histoire Noir, plusieurs classes ont créé les posters qui reconnaissent les figures noires en histoires et les luttes que les personnes noires ont traversés pendant les années. Il y avait aussi des concours d'arts et les futilités au thème d'Histoire Noir pour les prix.

Il y avait beaucoup de grandes émotions autour de l'école avec les sports aussi!

Le saison de basketball pour les équipes masculines junior et senior ont fini et c'était une bonne saison avec des hauts et des bas. Avec les jeux éliminatoire c'était un peu rugueux, les juniors ont perdu 25-45 contre Norwood pour les Championnats de Kawartha. Lors de la saison régulière, les garçons Jr. ont perdu quatre jeux et gagné un. Les seniors ont perdu Kawarthas similairement avec un score de 24-50 contre Norwood avec quatre autres pertes et quatre gagnées durant la saison régulière.

L'équipe junior féminin de volleyball ont détruit le court de volleyball au COSSA (Central Ontario Secondary School Association) où elles ont gagné sept de leur set et perdu seulement un et elles ont gagné de l'or. Les gros efforts de ces filles ont payé et elles ont fait une saison magnifique. M. Gaffney, un prof de français et l'éducation physique à HHSS et coach de volleyball, a parlé du succès du volleyball. "C'est fantastique pour plusieurs raisons. On a eu deux belles saisons en automne et hiver avec beaucoup de succès," dit-il.

Le ski nordique ont aussi eu une saison fantastique avec tout le classement dans la moitié supérieure de la course. Les filles seniors ont gagné la cinquième place en tout de l`Ontario.

M. Gaffney a parlé du succès des équipes durant le premier semestre. "On a eu les médailles à l'OFSAA, on a eu les championnats de COSSA et Kawarthas. Les équipes sportives ont eu de très belles saisons et j'ai très hâte pour les saisons du printemps." Avec les saisons fantastiques comme le volleyball et le ski, il a dit, "Les cours sont fantastiques…Il y a une énergie dans l'école qui est positive, on a un bon momentum ici à l'école."

En ces mots de M. Gaffney, "l'esprit de l'école est ici encore et c'est fort!"

Par Rosie Lafleur,
Freyja Neiman-Rowe et Silas Ram
10 e année

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A Canvasback Duck quacks, a rare sound to be heard on the Gull River. /Submitted by Ed Poropat

Rare duck spotted in Minden waters

VIVIAN COLLINGS
County Life Editor

You might have noticed the plethora of Mallards swimming and splashing around together in the Gull River on your last stroll through town.

Next time, look a little closer.

Nestled in with the group is someone who looks a little different.

A lone Canvasback Duck, the largest of its genus, is doing its best to fit in with the crowd.

"It's very rare for a Canvasback to make its way here," said local naturalist Ed Poropat. "It would be termed a vagrant because its migration path is actually quite a ways west from where we live. It breeds commonly in the northern Prairies."

He said their migration path is almost a diagonal line across the middle of Canada, going down through the Prairies and into Ontario.

"From there, they spread out for migration. There's decent numbers of them in the winter down in Lake Erie and other parts of southwestern Ontario," Poropat said.

Poropat has only seen two others in his years of living in the Highlands.

"But it is an especially rare bird for Haliburton County and Algonquin Park. This is the third county record that I'm aware of," he said.

He's not sure why the single bird has made its way up to our waters, but as long as there is open water, it's likely here for the winter.

"It's considered a vagrant, sometimes birds get blown off course, but there's really no other explanation for it," he said.

It was first spotted in the open water of the Drag River in Head Lake Park in Haliburton.

"My wife was the one that found it, and it was there for at least a couple of weeks. Then we had a really cold snap and the river froze up."

Along with 60 or more Mallards, it seems it decided the best course of action was to stick with the locals.

"All of them just headed over to Minden where the river stays open all winter," he said.

Poropat said the bird is not in any danger, and will likely find its way when it comes time to migrate back to the Prairies in the spring.

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Trivia time

Ashley McAllister and Josh Foyster laugh with their team during Ommmh's Trivia Night on Thursday, Feb. 22 in Minden hosted by Big Dumb Face Trivia. /TIM YANO Special to County Life

Bust your child's worries

Are you a caregiver looking for a more effective way to support your child in overcoming worries? You are not alone!

Point in Time has partnered with MindFit to offer "Worry Busters for Youth", a virtual online group for youth aged 10 - 15 experiencing worry, fear, or anxiety to learn effective and practical strategies to manage anxiety and worries now and in the future. This group is being sponsored by Point in Time and is offered at no cost to participants. No anxiety diagnosis is required to attend this group.

The group will run for five weeks on Mondays from 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. starting April 8 and ending May 6, with the opportunity to meet individually for follow up afterwards. The group will be facilitated on a secure video platform by Shannon Norris, Child, Youth & Family Therapist from Point in Time, and Dr. Soeun Lee, a Psychologist from MindFit.

For more information on how to register, please contact Rachelle Stephens, Clinical Team Lead at 705-457-5345 ext. 103 or rachelles@pointintime.ca.

Submitted by *Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents*

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Send your letters to the editor to vivian@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

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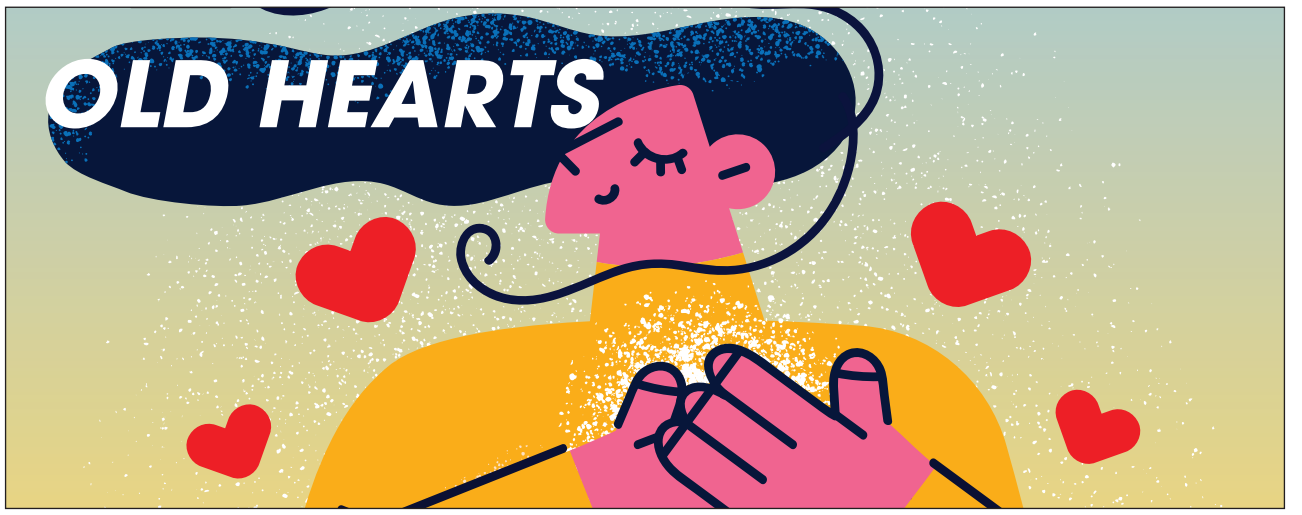

DEBORAH J REED
Special to *County Life*

MY PARTNER and I dined out last February 14 in a popular historic Ontario resort town. Its main street featured at least a dozen friendly up-to-date rainbow flags as permanent fixtures in doors and storefronts. We didn't travel the two hours there for that. We already live together, and operate comfortably within our own laid-back village of creative and outdoorsy people.

We'd arrived incidentally at couple-hood, having lived other places in various career or family scenarios. Relationships expand, shift or move on. Every one of them is important. Later in life now, we next wish to settle into growing old. Expedition unknown.

On February 14, I risked roasted Brussels sprouts and she, truffle fries, as our alternative sides to their famous house burgers. We thought the menu and venue were pretty special. Beyond the two-seater table next to us was a hidden single speaker which diffused its magic 70s playlist across the entire gastropub. Every vibing booth was occupied, as was every candlelit corner. There were red hearts and sparkly lights and real flowers everywhere. There was active smiling in the see-through kitchen. When one server couldn't manage her busier delivery, the burly line cook helped carry orders, mostly burgers, to relaxed and chummy diners. He was particularly adorable, wishing a Happy Valentine's! to everyone he attended. Extended families. Regular patrons. And beside us, two rather edgy 20-somethings, male and female, faces constantly close in tight conversation against that mellow speaker. Every table got a Happy Valentine's! from that extra cook tonight.

Except ours. So I grinned and noted this to my amused partner across from me, loudly enough so both she and our neighbouring table could hear: "He didn't wish us a Happy Valentine's."

I understood that it might not have occurred to staff that those salt-and-pepper dames gnawing at grub and chair-dancin' to James Taylor et al were actually an item. I'd certainly imagined our spryness might have been obvious as we competed to see who could pronto name-that-tune. It was lovely enough that anyone was being wished anything at all. Keeping diners groovin' on a gauzy night requires higher-level dedication.

But the 20-somethings next to us weren't in the zone with their Valentine's greeting. The young male beside me leaned sideways and instantly corrected, maybe loudly enough for our benefit. "We're not a couple…"

Was he rewiring the assumption? Were the two being sensitive to us? Maybe they appreciated the exquisiteness of irony, as I so often do. Those server blessings were as sociable as Slainte! That line cook's goodwill was palpable. Perhaps he, too, was high on Joni, or Sweet Baby James. There was good love in that room. One love.

We complimented our meal, left a satisfied tip and promised to come back again soon for those very burgers.

Then, away from folk, and back into fine fresh air, and as we sidestepped in sensible shoes the worst of the frozen puddles, we both simultaneously yelled HAPPY VALENTINE'S! to the whole dang world.

Top 10 reasons to not ask your dog to sit

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

THERE ARE many good reasons to ask your dog to sit. This is why sit is almost always the first command we teach our little friends.

But what dog trainers don't tell you is that there are times when sit is exactly the wrong command to give. With that in mind, here are the top 10 reasons you should refrain from asking your dog to sit.

1. It's a nice carpet and your dog is hard of hearing.
2. You are on a glass bottomed boat and there are scubas divers below.
3. A smaller dog is in process of sniffing it.
4. The national anthem is playing.
5. You just bragged about how good he/she is at sitting.
6. It leads to scooting.
7. Your pup is on an ant hill and is very ticklish.
8. A judge is entering the courtroom.
9. You just mopped the floor to a mirror finish and don't want that kind of print on it.
10. It makes your dog look unsupportive when you yell, "I will not take this sitting down!"

Sundays

Clouds, cloistering Sun,
shrouding the trail in a quiet, so loud, I slow my steps,
to listen to the silence, sacred as Breath, inhaling the space where Snow meets Sky,
as I reach the edge of the field, the trail meandering like a stream,
leading me here, some Sundays, to release the feelings sealed inside me during the week,
the vastness of this place, emptying and filling me at the same time,
as I stare at the stalks of tall grasses, poking from Snow,
their brittle spines faded to the colour of straw, some, flattened by Wind and storm,
enduring this freeze and thaw with a patience I don't possess, my restlessness nudging me Outside,
Sky, leading me here, to the blankness of this field, as my eyes blink up at the smudge of Sun,
peeking through the veil of clouds,
its face, pale as the pebble of Moon, that will begin to rise, soon, my eyes, scouring Sky,
searching for truths I already know, sleeping deep inside, like stones, buried in Snow,
a river of Wind, flowing through me, as I inhale, deep, watching Sun play hide and seek,
exhaling a week's worth of debris, as I breathe,
peering at the lone tree that springs from Snow, in the centre of the field,
its branches, bare as Air, wondering what kind of a tree it is,
what Wind blew its rogue seed here, to settle in the earth and sprout,
the bones of its branches, all fingers and elbows, without the flesh of leaves, as I feel my Breath, breathe,
my lungs, muffled beneath layers of skin and sweater and coat, admiring the stoicism of the lone tree,
stalks of tall grasses, surrounding it, forging a quiet camaraderie, as Wind blows,
and winter takes root, beneath the earth, freezing sleeping seeds.
My feet lead me along the trail, that hugs the edge of the field, before it meanders into forest again,
the open space of Sky and Snow, replaced by rows of trees, the quiet, cracking, as I hold my Breath for a moment,
listening to the spines of trees, creak, waiting all week for these Sundays to come,
when this feeling of peace, swathes me like a shawl, watching as clouds unveil Sun,
cloaking the trail with light, silent as Snow, as I decide which way I should go,
Air, holding my Breath, the frozen earth, cradling my steps, as my eyes search Sky, for the answer I already know,
my feet leading me back through the Snow.

By Sylvie Kalenda

Writing on the Senior Side

Haliburton is my neighbourhood

GAIL STELTER

Special to *County Life*

It was dusk. The summer sun descended below the trees. The streetlights would be on soon. We knew we were supposed to come in then, but we often pushed it, especially when were in the middle of the greatest game of hide 'n seek. I remember one time, the evening before garbage day when my friend, Janice curled herself up in a ball and hid in plain sight beside a garbage can. As soon as the boy who was it moved away from "home", she jumped up, ran to the fire hydrant and yelled, "Home free!" That was the best hiding spot ever.

My street, Smithfield Drive, was in Etobicoke in the city of Toronto, but it was so much more than a street, it was a whole neighbourhood where everyone knew each other. At the end of the street, on the corner of the Queensway, we had four neighbourhood stores. The first store was Doc's, the drug store. I think his name was Doc Williams but we all just said, "Hi Doc" and he knew all our names. Doc's was where you bought birthday cards, ice-cold Coke from the big bin cooler and Mello Rolls. A Mello Roll was a three-inch ice cream drum (cylinder) about one inch in diameter, wrapped in peel-away wappers and Doc would steer it and push it into a cone. Next door to Doc's was a barber shop. I never went there; strictly a place for boys and men including my dad and brother. Beside the barber shop was Old Man Potter's grocery store. Of course, we never called him that to his face. It was small and dusty which was much like Old Man Potter who was old and grumpy. Kids didn't like being sent there on errands and Old Man Potter didn't like kids. But, Old Man Potter always had geraniums for sale for Mother's Day, and I went every year to buy my mom a single pot red geranium. The last store on the corner was the hardware store and I don't remember the name of it but I remember the owners as a friendly couple and I would spend considerable time shopping for the perfect Father's Day gift. There was a selection of gifts, plants and so many neat things to see.

We left the street once a week to walk a block to Humber Bay Public School for Brownies and when we got a little older we walked all the way, to Parklawn Library. Our neighbourhood expanded when we rode our bikes to the nearby park. We stood our bikes up against the trees and climbed up. It was the perfect place for a picnic lunch.

It was no surprise that as parents we attempted to recreate that neighbourhood for our children and, although the times were quickly changing, we found our small town; Milton - population of approximately 6000 when we bought our first house. Once again the street was full of kids. Someday I am going to ask my four children to share their favourite memories with me and I will write that story too.

By now you may be wondering what this trip down memory lane has to do with the senior side. We retired and many of us decided we were ready once again to find that friendly neighbourhood; that small town. We retired to rural towns and villages, waterfront spaces and land to grow our vegetables or set up own our driving range. We love the space. We love knowing our neighbours. This is the new phenomenon of life on the senior side. More and more Canadian seniors are leaving the cities and the suburbs to retire among the trees and lakes. The Caribbean Islands may beckon and the Florida golf courses welcome us in winter. Heat, sunshine, sandals and sunhats all sound so appealing but really would you want to live there all year? No, not me. Given the choice between heat and ocean beaches or never-ending forests, mountains, and freshwater lakes, I will forever choose the latter. Perhaps you did too. That's why you live in Haliburton and that's why you fit and feel perfectly at home. Oh, some of you, like me will enjoy your annual escape from winter and some of you will opt for the days away in the big city life but most of you will find yourself yearning to come back to the Highlands. Are you surprised to know how much I miss my Haliburton home when I am away? I love trees outside my window, lakes where I swim with the loons, campfires with guitars, a gentle hike or even walking down the main street.

We know we are boomers but did you know we are also considered "Back Country Boomers"? Boomers who live in rural areas and who wouldn't have it any other way. No doubt, you've heard the complaints of some who say rural areas don't have the services we need as we age. Well, it's time to let that go. (Even Fitizimobah doesn't want to hear it.) Have you seen the booklet created by Aging Together as Community- Haliburton Highlands? It is called Helpful Tips for Seniors in Haliburton County and was published in October 2023. This 10-page booklet not only contains important information about aging but also a concise yet comprehensive list of Resources for Seniors in Haliburton County. We know what we want and need but sometimes accessing the right resource can be trying. It's all here for you in one booklet and every senior in our neighbourhood should have a copy. If you don't already have one you may wish to contact agingingtogetherhc@gmail.com or find them on Facebook.

If you were born here; if you moved here long ago; or, if you retired here, you are in a wonderful neighbourhood. I feel so fortunate that Haliburton Highlands is my neighbourhood.

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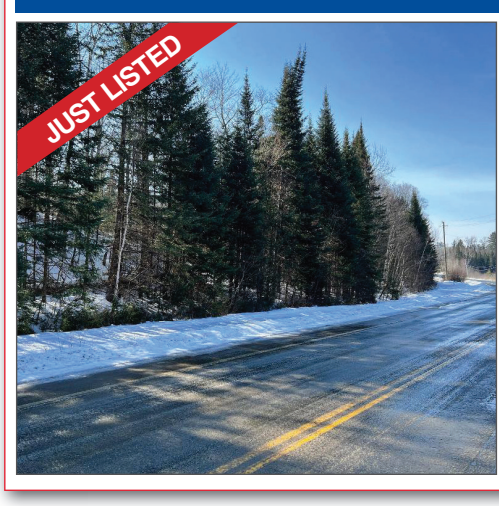

- 51+ac, nicely treed, mixed terrain
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705-455-2500
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Data pulled from the Ranking Reports program from ITSO on the Lakelands Association Of Realtors Board on January 16, 2024.

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SPRING
Cottage Life
SHOW
March 21 - 24

RE/MAX Professionals North, Brokerage will be at the Spring Cottage Life Show.

If you are thinking of selling your property this is a great opportunity to promote it. Contact a local RE/MAX agent for more details.

Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email vivian@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

A snowy-faced Pine Marten peeks over a bank. /Submitted by Tammy Nash

A curious Blue Jay. /Submitted by Jill Moulton

Legion Events

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge every Monday, 1 p.m. Schofield Rm.
Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30 to 9 p.m. (Sept to June)
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. First Wed of each month - $1000 jackpot, rest will be a $500 jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, starting at 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend. Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Meat draw has five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $2 per draw. Ed Pickard, MC.
Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards.
Saturdays: 50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw – tickets are $1 each available in the Clubroom.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129 ... everyone is welcome!

Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m. and Sat. 3 to 6 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

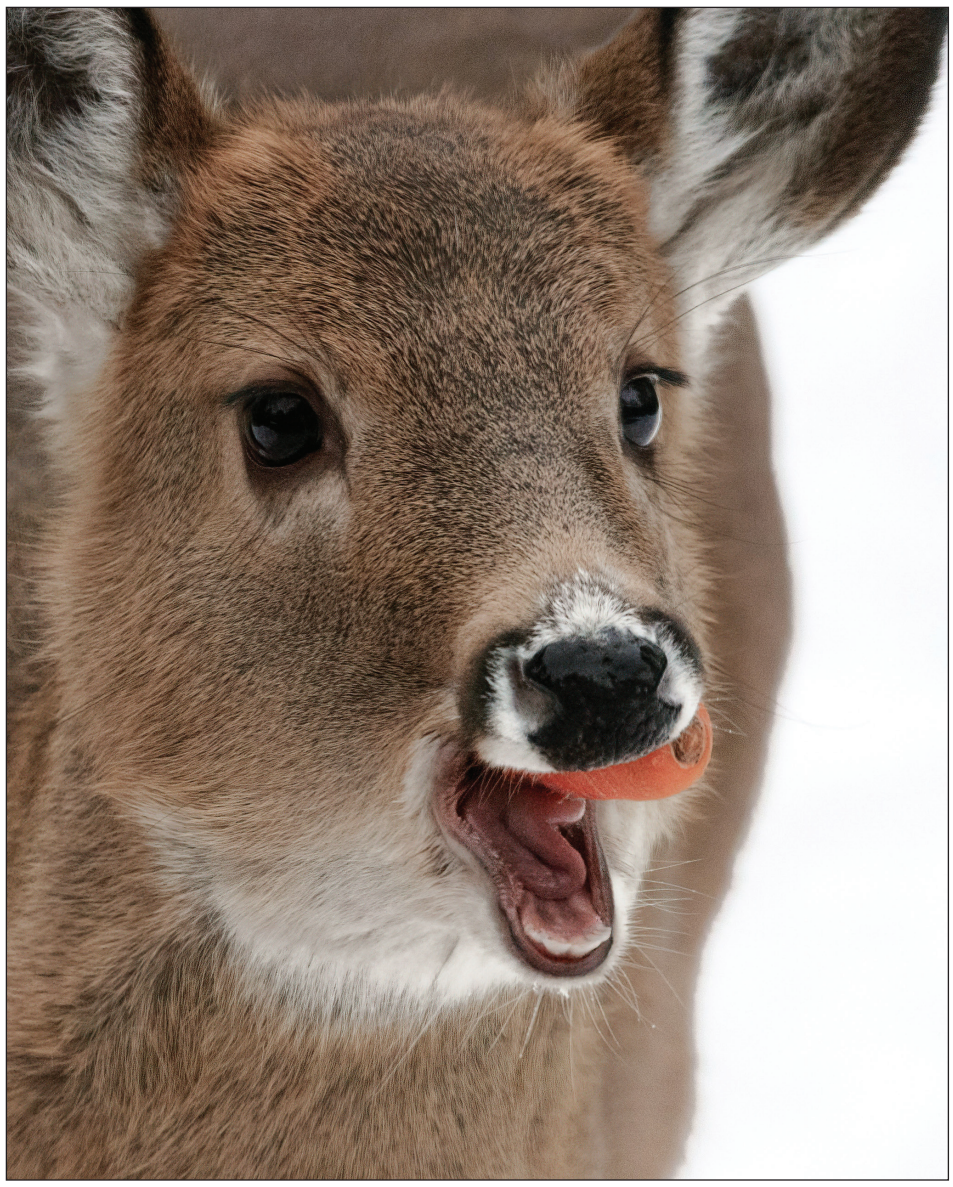
Branch 624 Wilberforce Events

Mar. 7 - Open 2 to 6 p.m.
Mar. 8 - Senior's 55+ Lunch Noon – Open 2 to 9 p.m. /Chips 5 to 8 p.m.
Mar. 9 - OPEN 2-6pm – Meat Draw 3pm
Mar. 10 - L.A. Breakfast 9 to 11 a.m., Closed after breakfast
Mar. 11,12 - Closed
Mar. 13 - Open 2 to 6 p.m. Darts 2 p.m.

If you are planning an event our Ladies Auxiliary would be pleased to cater

Please call the branch at 705-448-2221 to arrange your event.

A doe was looking for her close-up during a fuel delivery in Haliburton by Francis-Youngdale Fuels. /Submitted by Brent Nolan



A white-tailed deer munches on a snack. /Submitted by Tammy Nash

A little Chickadee perches in a cedar tree. /Submitted by Jill Mouton

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Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Creative Collaborations

When: Tuesdays at 1 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church. 617 Mountain Street
Share your skills. Learn new skills. Bring your own project or work on the featured project. Beginners Welcome. Contact lynnhiggsthompson@haliburtonanglican.ca for details.

Seniors Chair Exercises

When: Thursdays, at 1 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain St.
Safe and gentle exercises for seniors to help with balance, strength and flexibility. Free to join.

Cribbage and Euchre

When: Tuesdays at 2 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain St.
Join us Tuesdays for cribbage and Euchre at St. George's Anglican Church. With funding from the Government of Ontario. Please contact lynnhiggsthompson@haliburtonanglican.ca for more information.

Student Art Exhibition

When: Now until March 30
Where: Agnes Jamieson Gallery, 176 Bobcaygeon Rd. Minden
Archie Stouffer Elementary School and the Agnes Jamieson Gallery present to you a juried exhibition of artwork with the theme 'What does Minden mean to you? Viewing is available Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is by donation. Contact culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or 705-286-3763 for full details and updates.

World Day of Prayer Service

When: Mar. 1 at 2 p.m.
Where: Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. Minden
Join us for our World Day of Prayer service at Highland Hills United Church. Everyone is welcome.

Easter Colouring Contest

When: Mar. 1 to 28 at 12 noon
Where: Curry Chevrolet, 5065 County Rd 21
Show off your artistic talent and win Easter goodies! Submit a colouring page in one of the following age categories: 0-4 years, 5-8 years, 9-14 years 15+ years. Prizes awarded for the top two entries in each category. Colouring sheets can be picked up, dropped off, or mailed to the dealership at the address above, or can be scanned and emailed to reception@currychevrolet.ca. Call 705-457-2100 for more information .

Lenten Lunch

When: March 6 at 12 noon
Where: St. Paul's Anglican Church, 19 Invergordon Ave. Minden
Please join us at St Paul's Anglican Church for a service at 12 noon followed by a soup lunch by donation.

Lenten Lunch

When: March 13 at 12 noon
Where: Our Lady of Fatima Church, 7 Bobcaygeon Rd. Minden
Please join us at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church for a service at 12 noon followed by a soup lunch by donation.

classifieds@haliburtonpress.com
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540 COMING EVENTS

Lenten Lunches Wednesdays
March 6 - St. Paul's Anglican,
March 13 - Our Lady of the Fatima Catholic Church,
March 20 - Highland Hills United Church.
Services at noon, followed by Soup Lunch, by donation.

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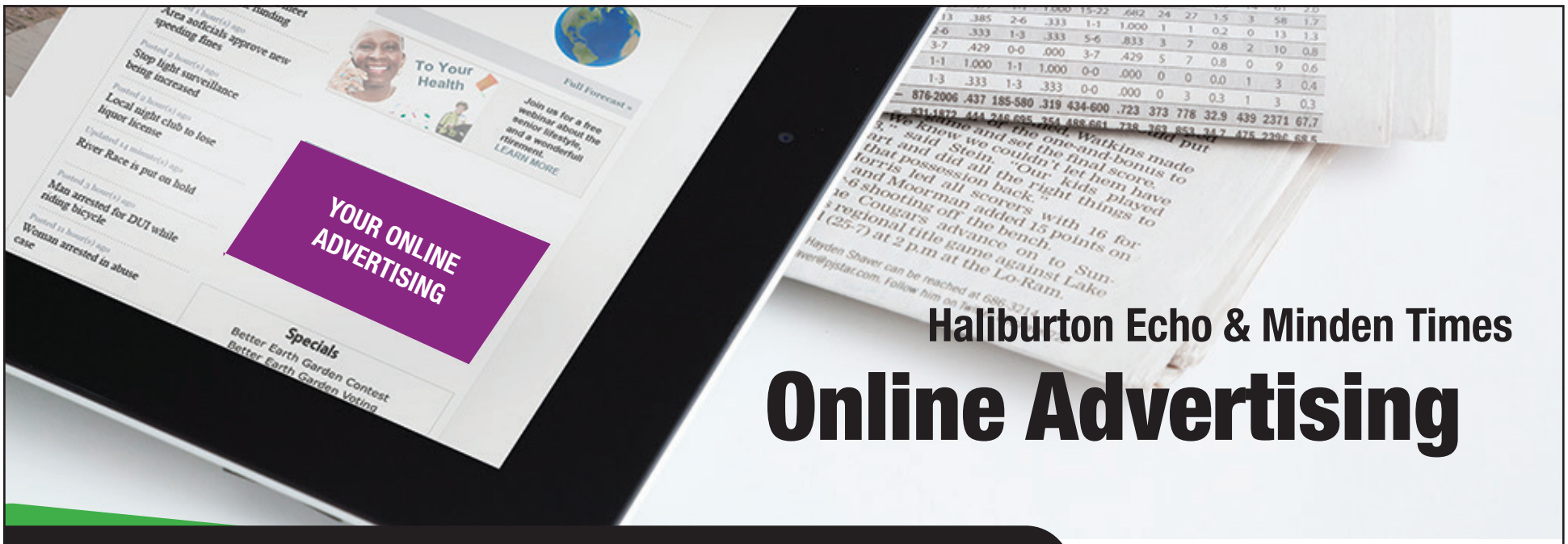

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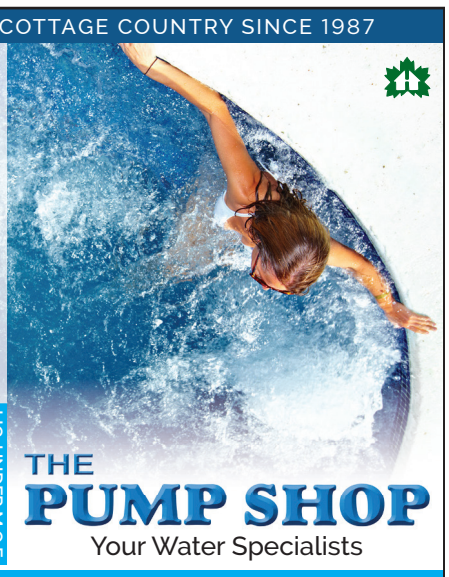

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THE TIMES MINDEN
A publication of Algonquin Graphics Limited

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2002
No. 2041

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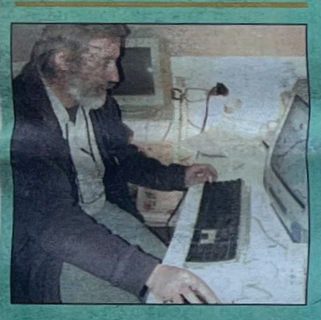
This week

An elk on Eagle

A recent spotting of a female elk has captured everyone's attention on Eagle Lake.

Page 7



The map man

Creating maps is not only a passion but is also an avid past time for the Beaudrys.

Page 2

Notable quotes:

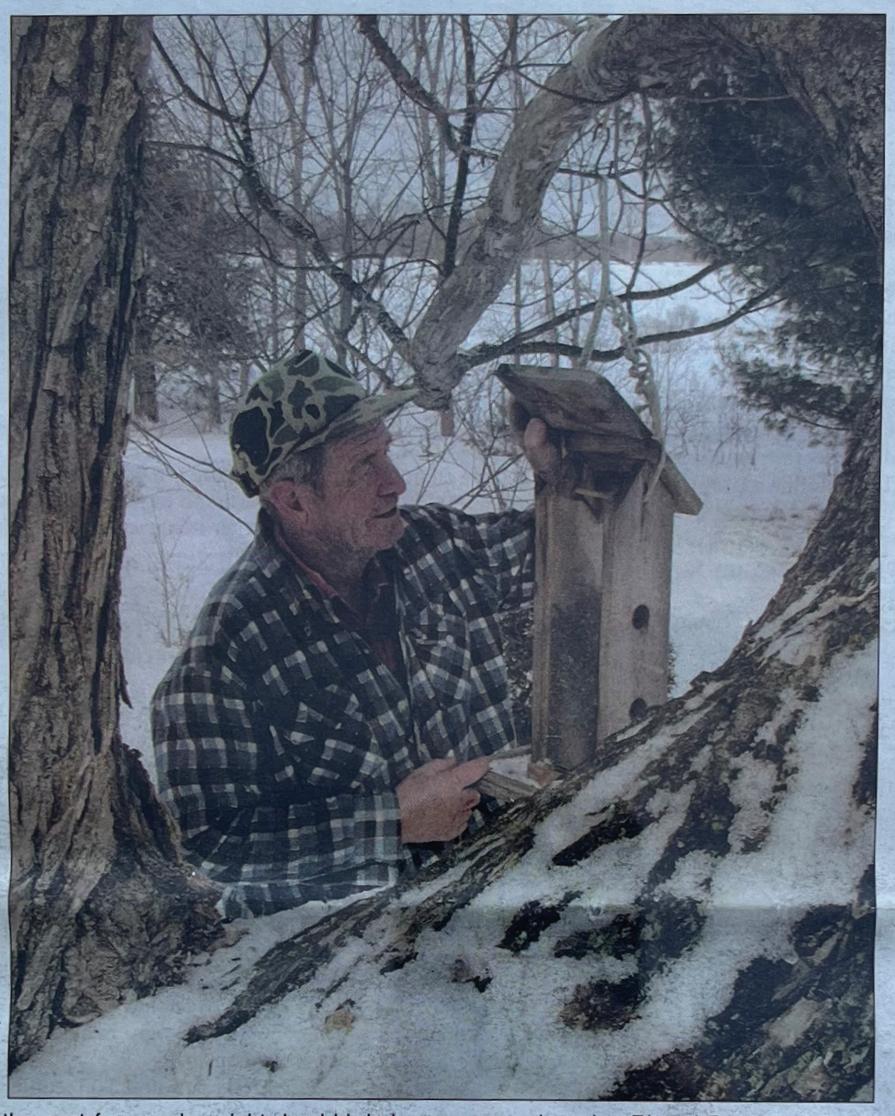
"We're not out to change municipalities. We just want to have a community centre"

Don Dyson, page 4

Commentary:

"Let's get this straight – Ross Rigney, our reeve, said the town cannot afford to help the 911 committee, but the town will water the flowers."

Letter from Charles Gerditschke, page 8



Allison Taylor/TIMES

In the past few weeks, eight dead birds have appeared on Joe Rivers' Deep Bay Road lawn. To reduce the risk of salmonella, he's cleaned out all of his bird feeders; other avian enthusiasts are asked to do the same.

Salmonella outbreak going to the birds in Minden

by ALLISON TAYLOR
Times staff

With eight dead birds spread eagle on his property within the last two week, Joe Rivers knew something was up and whatever it was, it was falling erratically from the skies over his Minden home.

"We didn't know what was happening so I decided to make a few calls," Rivers said standing in the middle of his front yard last week off Deep Bay Road.

Fresh snow had fallen and was now covering the ground where the dead birds were found only days ago..

With at least five feeders located strategically around his house and a variety of birds paying homage to the seed he dishes out on a regular basis, Rivers didn't know he was the latest victim of a salmonella epidemic that hit the province in January.

After he found the third or fourth bird puffing it's feathers and falling dead around the base of the feeders, River's knew that something was up.

One of his first phone calls was to the Minden Animal Clinic.

"We've had a couple of calls and have heard some reports of sick birds in the area," said the clinic's veterinarian Peter Bennett.

There have been reports of birds dropping from the skies in Norland, Minden Hills and around the county; the source of the concern wasn't officially identified until recently.

Bennett sent a few samples from dead birds to the Canadian Co-operative Wildlife Health Centre at the University of Guelph. Just recently they learned the results. The clinic has officially identified one dead bird with having salmonella in its system. The bird tested was an Evening Grossbeak and is the only bird in the county to be officially identified with the infectious bacteria known as salmonella.

see SONGBIRDS *page 4*

New Minden Hills CAO to start in April

Gerry Morrison comes with 20 years' experience

by ALLISON TAYLOR
Times staff

It's been months in the making but Minden Hills council can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel.

The search for a new chief administrative officer and clerk for the municipality is officially closed as council announced the newest addition to the township's payroll at a cmeeting last week.

In a unanimous decision during a closed-door meeting on February 28, Minden Hills hired Gerry Morrison to end the CAO search that began last October.

Morrison brings better than 20 years of municipal experience to the council table, Reeve Ross Rigney said during a break from the council meeting. He currently is the clerk/treasurer/administrator in the Cramahe Township in Colborne, where he has worked for the past 10 years.

"We're very pleased," Rigney said. "We're glad to get him. We got a good guy."

Within the next week Morrison will be house hunting in the area with his family.

There were four candidates in this round of interviews. The municipality was in negotiations with a prospective candidate at the end of January, but an agreement between the two parties could not be reached. Minden Hills advertised for the position again in February and found Morrison to fill the void starting in April.

Treasurer Mary Jane Irwin has been filing the role as acting CAO-Clerk since the departure of Tammy McKelvey in January. She will continue with her role as treasurer.

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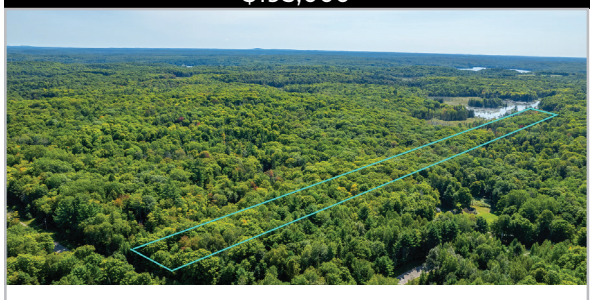

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Numbers Know & Experience Shows

Jan. 1, 2023 - Dec. 31, 2023

Baumgartner Realty Group		Other Haliburton Brokerages
Days on Market		**Days on Market**
38 Days		49 Days
Average Sale Price	SOLD	**Average Sale Price**
$888,979		$794,371
List to Sale Price Ratio		**List to Sale Price Ratio**
99.80%		97.78%

BAUMGARTNER B|R REALTY GROUP

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